

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

New Claims 48 and 49 have been added, support for which exists throughout the present specification, including page 3, lines 14-17 and the examples.

Claims 1-3, 17-22 and 24-49 are currently pending.

The Office Action rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. patent 5,879,684 ("Fox") in view of U.S. patent 5,468,477 ("Kumar"). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

The rejection in the Office Action does not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The Office has previously recognized that Fox does not relate in any way to the claimed polymers. Thus, nothing in Fox teaches or suggests using an effective amount of the claimed grafted silicone polymers to reduce cutaneous signs of aging. Furthermore, Fox relates to tensor agents, and tensor agents are different from film-forming agents. That is, not all tensor agents are film-forming agents, and *vice versa*. Thus, Fox's disclosure concerning tensor agents neither teaches nor suggests any utility for Kumar's film-forming polymers. Accordingly, the combination of Fox and Kumar cannot yield the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that no *prima facie* case of obviousness exists.

However, even assuming a *prima facie* case of obviousness has been set forth, the surprising and unexpected results associated with the claimed invention are more than sufficient to rebut any such hypothetical *prima facie* case of obviousness. Specifically, as detailed in the Rule 132 declaration submitted with Applicants' previous response, invention

compositions possessed significantly higher tensioning effect than comparative compositions, and this vast difference in tensioning effect among the different polymers was surprising and unexpected given the similarity of the compositions and the similarity of the moieties in the polymers.

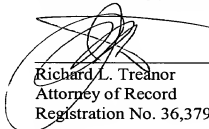
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that a sufficient showing of unexpected and surprising results has been made to overcome any hypothetical case of *prima facie* case of obviousness which may exist. Nothing in any of the cited references teaches or suggests using the effective amounts of the claimed polymers with the intent of reducing cutaneous signs of aging/wrinkles, let alone that the claimed polymers would possess surprising and unexpected properties in this regard. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

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Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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